

EXCAVATION AT TELL TABAN, HASSAKE, SYRIA (4): PRELIMINARY REPORT OF THE 2005 WINTER SEASON OF WORK

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1. Introduction

The Kokushikan University Archaeological Mission to Tell Taban carried out the 4th excavation season from January 30 to February 14 2005. Tell Taban is located in the Hassake Dam Salvage area and has been excavated by the Kokushikan University Archaeological Mission since 1997 [Ohnuma et al. 1999; Ohnuma et al. 2000; Ohnuma and Numoto 2001].

The mission members of the 2005 season were Hirotoishi Numoto, Ken Matsumoto (joined from 6 to 12 February), and Mr Salem Isa, who was our representative from the Directorate General for Antiquities and Museums (hereafter DGAM) of the Syrian Arab Republic.

When the mission arrived at Tell Taban in the end of January 2005, the water level of the Hassake Dam had risen to an unusual height (ca. 288 m above sea level) due to the heavy winter rain (Fig. 3; Pl.5). Before our arrival at the site, we planned to continue our excavations in Trenches I, II and III which were excavated from the 1997 to the 1999 seasons (Fig. 2). However, we found that these Trenches were completely sunk under the water and were not possible to excavate. Thus we were forced to select another area for the excavation.

We have chosen the west side of the foot of the tell which revealed a large eroded area caused by the Dam water. The area is part of a large area where several large mud-brick walls, which are presumably dated to the Middle Assyrian period, were exposed. The elected area is also important in connection with the huge mud-brick wall found in Trench III during the 1999 season. In the selected area, we have chosen to excavate the area with the best preserved mud-brick wall, which measured ca. 10 m long and 2 m high (Pls. 6, 7a). In addition, a grave with baked bricks wall (Pls. 6a, 7b), which was exposed in the area by the erosion was excavated.

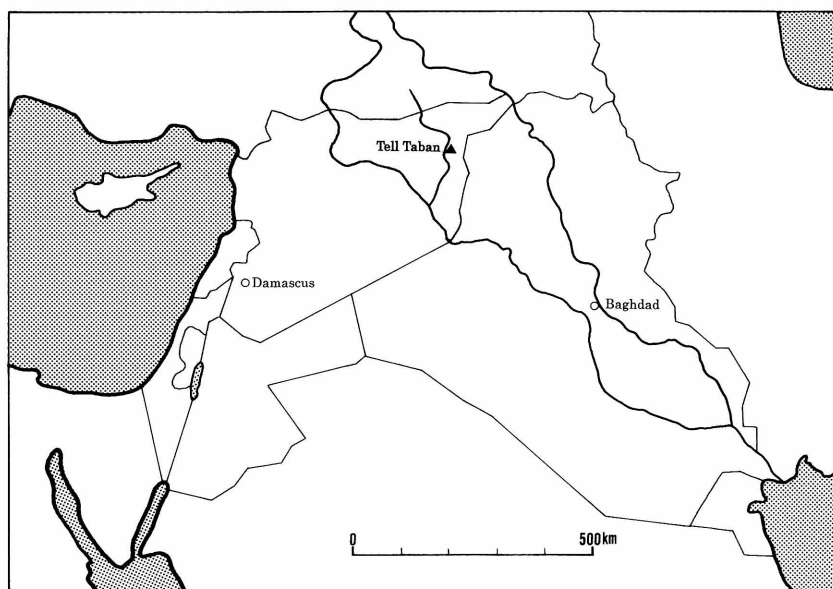


Fig. 1 Location of Tell Taban

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Fig. 2 Contour map of Tell Taban, 1997

2. Excavations

The 2005 excavations were carried out in Trenches 4 and 5. Trench 4 was set at the western edge of the cliff formed by erosion. The trench measured 4 m wide and 6 m long in the north-south direction. Trench 5, which measured 2.5 m wide and 4 m long, was set up to the north of Trench 4 (Figs. 3 and 4). Here are the brief results of each Trenches.

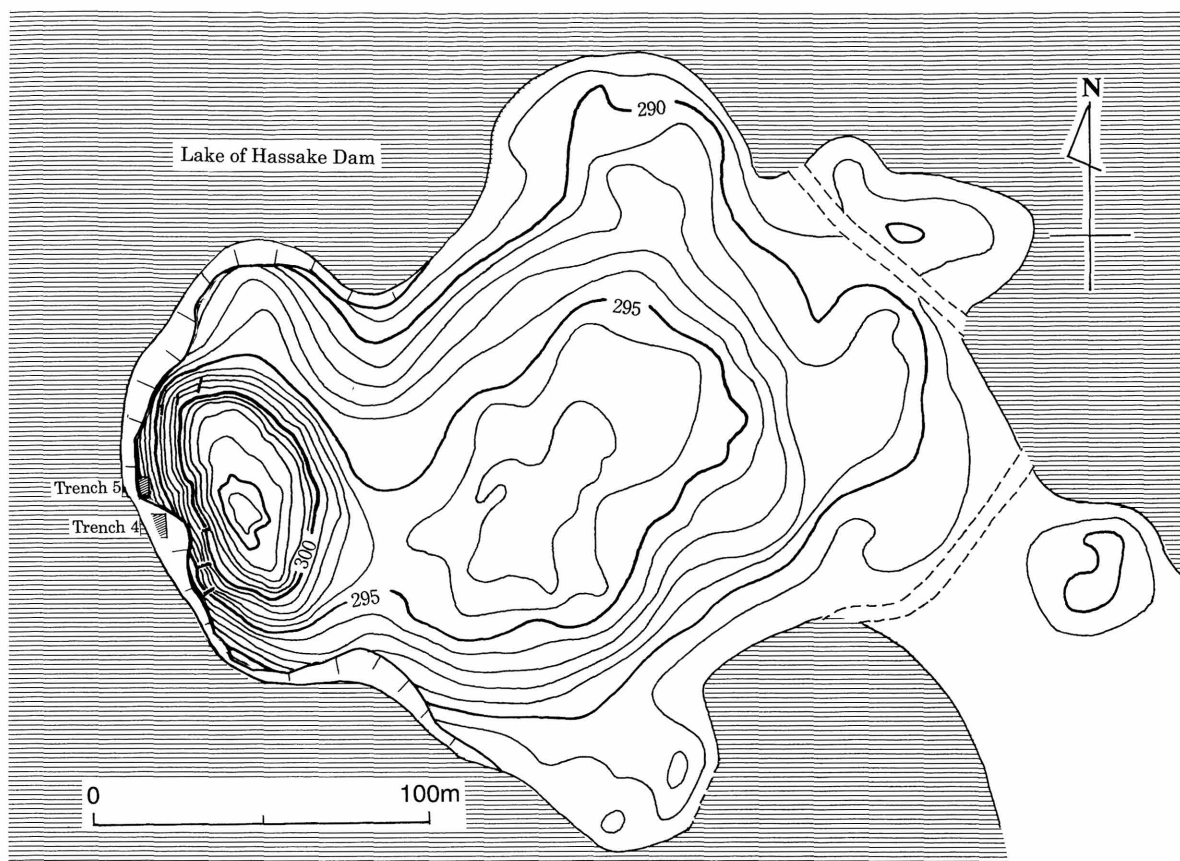


Fig. 3 Contour map of Tell Taban, 2005 Jan. 30

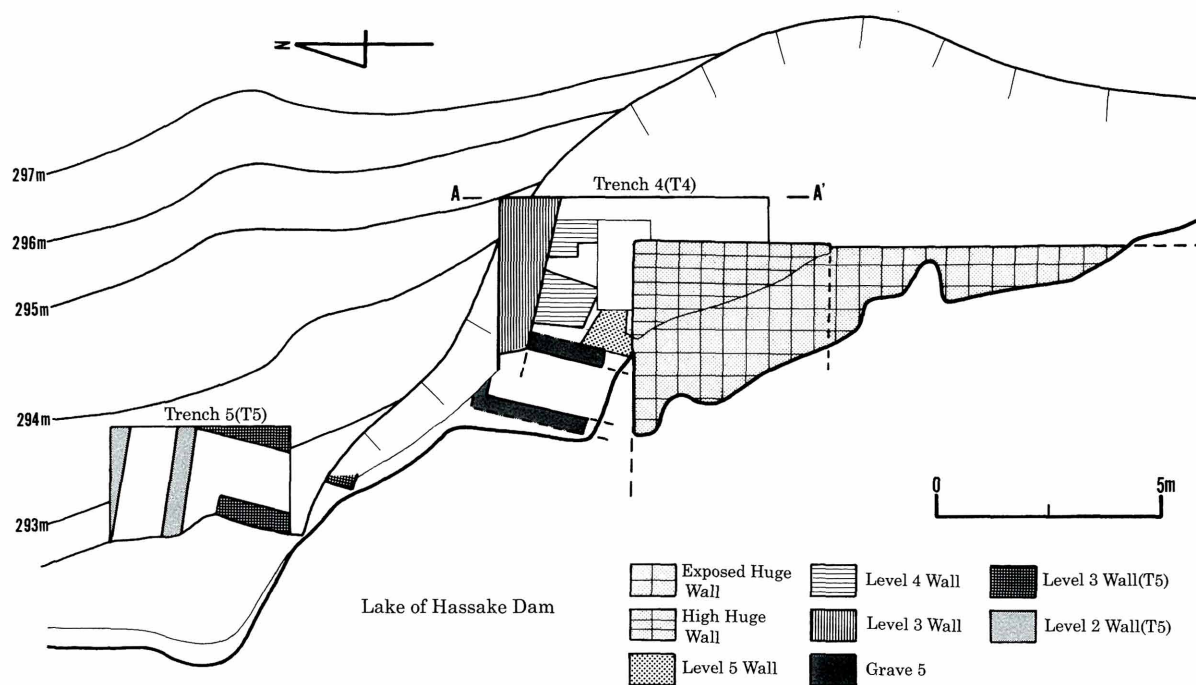


Fig. 4 Plan of excavated area 2005 (Trenches 4 and 5)

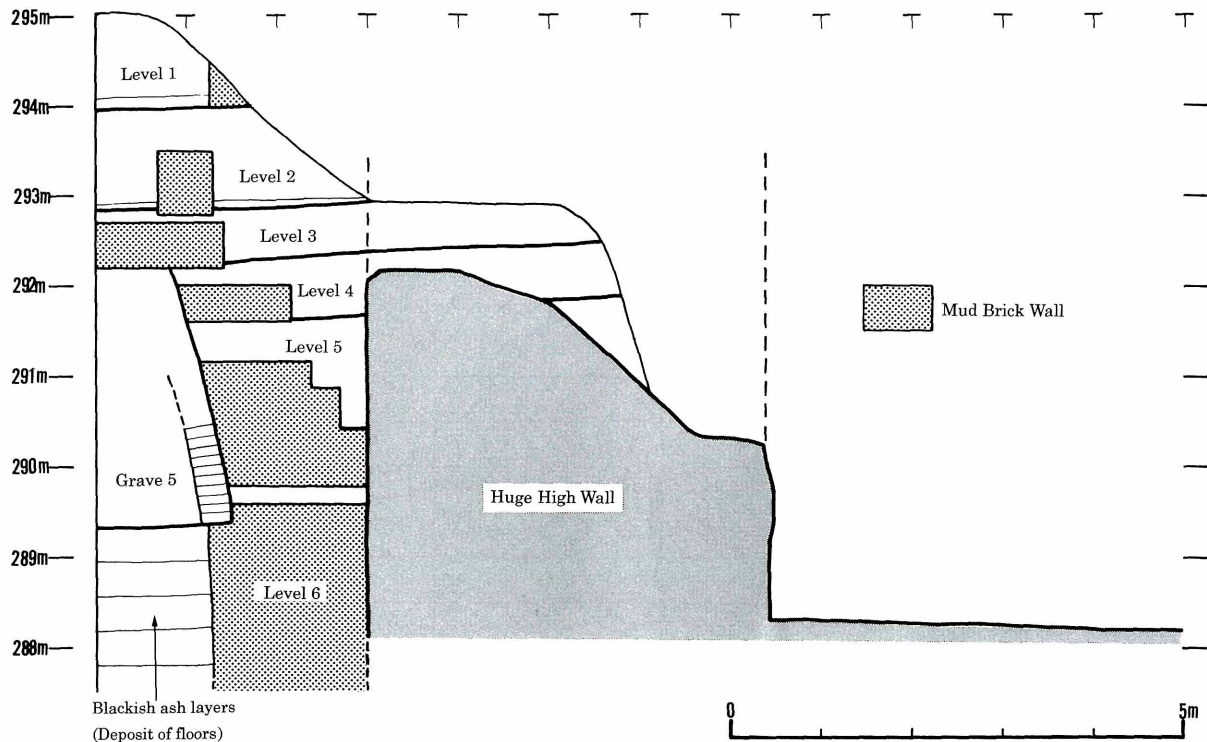


Fig. 5 North-south section of Trench 4 (A-A')

2-1. Trench 4

This Trench aimed to clarify the characteristics and stratigraphy of a huge wall that was exposed by erosion. A total of seven building levels were identified. The following is a brief description of each level from the upper to the lower levels (Figs. 4 and 5).

Level 1: Neo-Assyrian period

Part of mud-brick wall was found at the north-east corner of the Trench. Typical Neo-Assyrian pottery, which resembles to those from Nimrud [Oates 1959], was unearthed from the floor level that associates the wall (Fig. 9).

Level 2: Neo-Assyrian period

Part of mud-brick walls were identified in the north and the east sections of the Trench. The detail context of these walls is unknown. Two jar urns for infants (Graves 1 and 2) dated to the Neo-Assyrian period (Pl. 27) were unearthed. Grave 2 is a small jar urn of 30 cm long and was found right below Grave 1.

Level 3: Middle Assyrian period

A mud-brick wall, which runs in the east-west direction and measured ca. 1.4 m in thickness and 0.5 m in remaining height, was found (Pl. 8). The size of the mud-brick for the wall measured $38 \times 38 \times 10$ cm. The mud-bricks had creamy white colour. Some Middle Assyrian potsherds were unearthed from the floor levels associated with the wall.

Level 4: Middle Assyrian period

A mud-brick wall was found, but due to a small size of exposed area, the plan of the wall was unknown (Pl. 8). The wall was built from hard mud-bricks with reddish brown colour.

Level 5: Middle Assyrian period

Below this Level, excavation was carried out only in the cliff section. Part of a mud-brick wall was identified, but because of a narrow excavated space, its detail is unclear. It seems that the feature of mud-bricks closely resembles to those of Level 8 in Trenches I, II and III. Therefore, we believed that this level corresponds to Level 8 of the above trenches.

Level 6: Middle Assyrian period

A mud-brick wall was identified in the cliff section. This wall is connected with the northern face of a huge high wall. This may imply that the huge high wall was continuously used when the wall found in the cliff section was in use. The mud-bricks used in this wall were the same type of those used in the wall of Level 5. This suggests that there was little time lag between Levels 5 and 6.

Level 7: Middle Assyrian period

A huge high wall, which measured ca. 4.2 m wide and 4 m in remaining height and running in the south-north direction, was uncovered in this Trench (Pls. 2b, 9). The most remarkable discovery in this level was that the north-east corner of this huge high wall was confirmed (Pl. 10). This discovery suggests that the east-west width of this wall measured over 4 m. The size of mud-bricks used for the huge high wall was $35 \times 35 \times 10$ cm. The mud-bricks had very fine and densely packed texture with light brown colour. Since similar mud-bricks can be observed at the huge wall 1 in Level 9a of Trench III, it seems that the huge high wall of Level 7 corresponds to the above wall in Trench III.

The function of the huge high wall is not certain. Although floor levels which associated with the huge high wall were not reached during the excavation, a thick black ash layer of over 1 m in thickness was identified. This ash layer was located directly below the baked-brick walls of Grave 5 (see below). This ash layer is probably formed by an accumulation of floors which corresponds to the huge high wall. The ash layer extends more than 3 m to the north and it is most probable that the layer was caused by the accumulation of floors at a gate structure. If this is confirmed, then the huge high wall might have been functioned as a gate of the Middle Assyrian settlement at Tell Taban.

Grave 5: Middle Assyrian period.

This grave was found exposed at the edge of the cliff. It is constructed from baked -bricks and its entrance, which is now disappeared by erosion, was probably located to the south (Pl.11a). It probably had a vaulted ceiling which is now completely collapsed. The burial chamber measured 140 cm in width with a remaining length of 260 cm (Pl.11b). The remaining depth of the chamber was ca. 70 cm. The size of bricks was $36 \times 36 \times 6$ cm (Pl. 12). Structure of the grave was neatly constructed by bricks which resembles to those found in Assur. The structure suggested that the owner to be a noble person with luxurious burial goods. However, no finds were unearthed apart from a few fragments of bones, suggesting that the grave may have plundered sometime in the past. We have confirmed that the grave was dug into a level below the mud-brick wall in Level 3, and some Middle Assyrian pottery were unearthed from the pit for construction of the grave.

2-2. Trench 5

Trench 5 was set up in the area where a part of baked-brick pavement was exposed at the edge of the cliff. Three building levels were identified. Following is a brief description of each level from the upper to the lower levels.

Level 1: Neo-Assyrian period

Several floor levels and two jar urns for infants (Graves 3 and 4) were unearthed (Pls. 28a,b, 29a). Grave 3 contained some remarkable finds including various beads and a fragment of cylinder seal (Pl. 30a,b).

Level 2: Middle Assyrian period

After the abandonment of the room and the brick pavement of Level 3 (see below), an entrance or a passage-like mud-brick structure with a vaulted ceiling was constructed in this level (Figs. 6 and 8; Pls. 13, 14, 15a). This mud-brick structure runs in the east-west direction, and measured ca. 120 cm wide and 170 cm in remaining height. The floor of this mud-brick structure was confirmed on the debris of a collapsed wall of Room 1 of Level 3. The greenish grey soil which contained with a number of potsherds was accumulated on the floor. Semi-circular mud-bricks were piled up at the west end of the mud-brick structure. It is apparent that this part was a entrance of the structure. At the southern side of the structure, a reinforcement of the wall was identified (Pls. 15a, 18a). This mud-brick structure is supposed to has constructed as a gateway of public building, such as a palace. The size of the mud-bricks measured $38 \times 38 \times 10$ cm, and the mud-bricks mostly had black brown colour. These mud-bricks resemble to those from Level 5 in Trenches I, II and III. It is thus probable that this level corresponds to the above Level 5 and Level 3 in Trench 4.

Level 3: Middle Assyrian period

In this level, a room (Room 1) constructed from baked and sun-dried mud-bricks was partly unearthed. The room measured ca. 1.2 m in width and ca. 2 m in length. The entrance of the room, which was revealed in the section of the cliff, had a width of ca. 60 cm (Fig. 7, Pl. 26b). The size of a mud-brick was $36 \times 36 \times 10$ cm. It had light brown colour with high moisture content. The west wall of Room 1 had a height of 1.6 m, though its original height was unknown (Pl. 15a). The outer surface of the wall has been eroded by water. The southern part of the west wall had an entrance with a vaulted ceiling. The entrance probably measured ca. 1 m in height and ca. 75 cm in width (Pl. 15). One baked tile ($38 \times 48 \times 5$ cm) was preserved on the floor near the entrance (Pls. 15b,

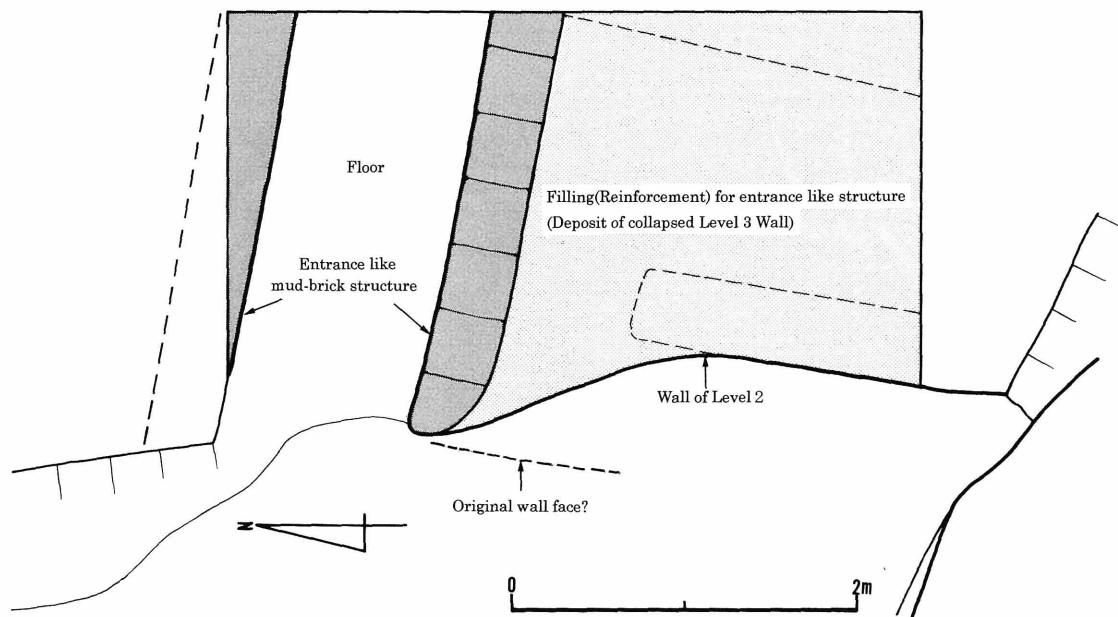


Fig. 6 Plan of Level 2 in Trench 5

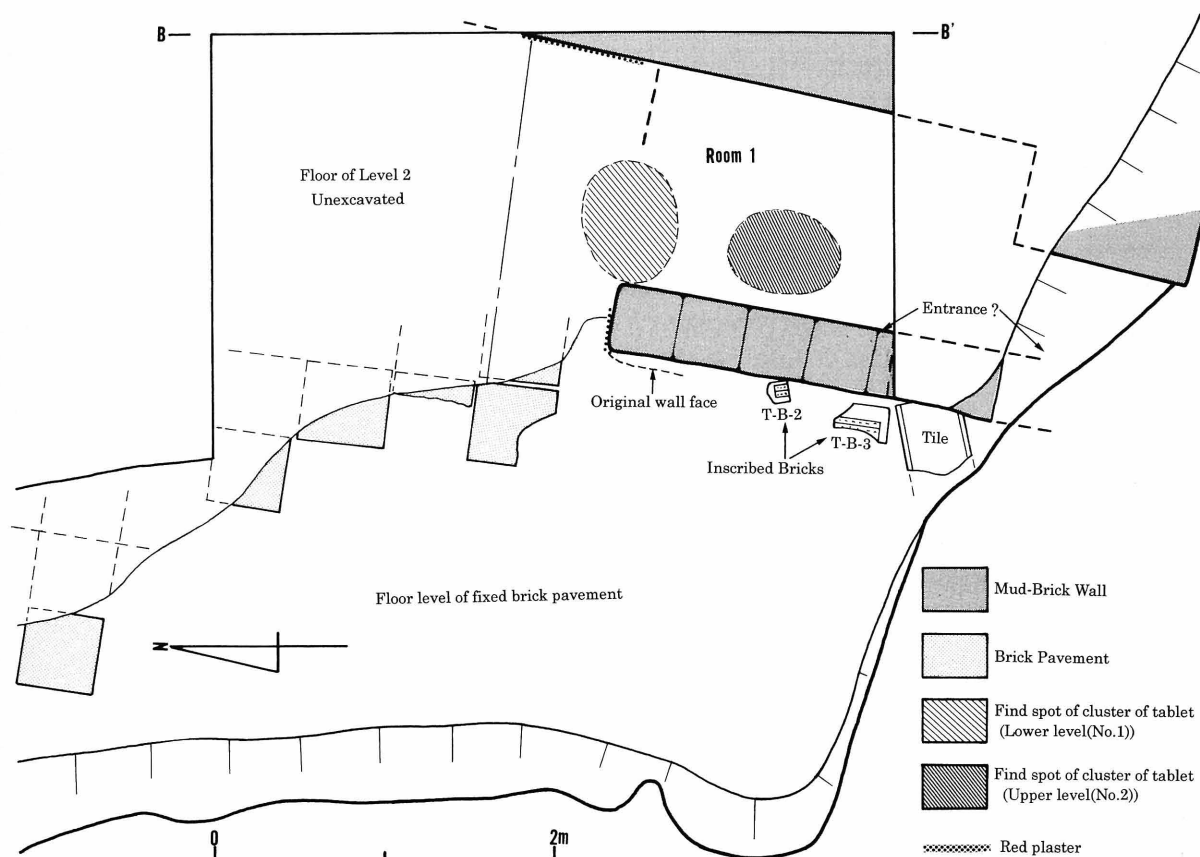


Fig. 7 Plan of Level 3 in Trench 5

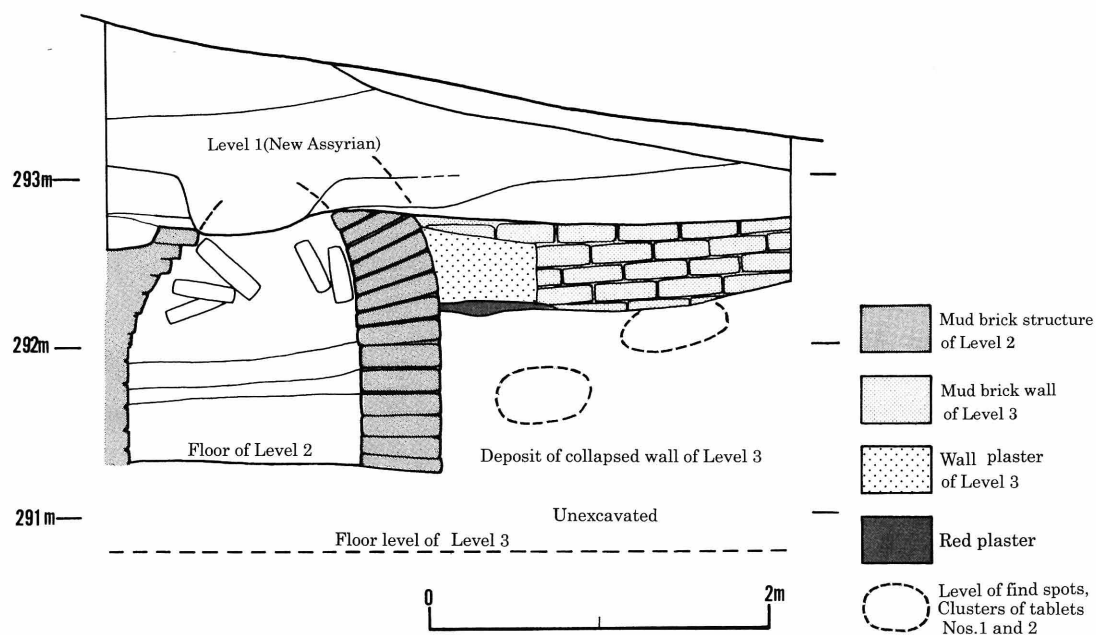


Fig. 8 North-south section of Trench 5 (B-B')

16b). Interestingly, remains of red paint were identified on the outer surface of the north and east walls which were covered by plaster (Pl. 4). This may be the remnants of the mural paintings.

The most notable discovery of this season derived from Room 1. Two clusters of *Middle Assyrian clay tablets* were unearthed from the upper and lower layers, respectively (Figs. 7, 8). The size of each cluster measured ca. $60 \times 40 \times 30$ cm. Each cluster consists of tightly packed clay tablets (Pls. 3a, 21, 22, 24a).

The clay tablet cluster from the lower layer was discovered after removing the reinforcement wall near the entrance in Level 2 (Pl. 18a). The cluster was located near the north wall of Room 1 and was probably stored in a niche-like structure of ca. 1 m in width and ca. 60–70 cm in height (Pls. 18b, 19a). Remain of vaulted ceiling was found over the cluster. This may suggest that either the niche-like structure or Room 1 itself had a vaulted ceiling. Since the cluster of clay tablets was found as a block, we assumed that it was stored in a sack which is now decayed. Remains of carbonized reeds were found near the cluster of clay tablets accompanied by one clay tablet and a bronze pin (Pl. 20a). The clay tablets were encrusted with hard soil derived from the debris of mud-brick walls. The majority of tablets had hard fabric with blackish colour (Pl. 3a). The preservation status of clay tablets was relatively good.

The clay tablet cluster from the upper layer was discovered ca. 1.3 m above the floor level of Room 1 and was laying at a horizontal condition (Fig. 8, Pls. 23, 24). This may suggest that the tablets were stored in a sack or a basket and placed on a shelf. The tablets from the upper layer had soft fabric probably due to rainwater during the winter.

The precise number of clay tablets from the above two clusters are still unknown, but most of them are small in size (less than ca. 7×7 cm) and probably contained more than 100 pieces. Since the large part of Room 1 is still unexcavated (Pl. 25), the storage method of tablets and the structure of the room are unknown. Among the tablets we have identified correspondences that were placed in envelopes. This may imply that Room 1 was probably an archive for storing administrative documents of the royal palace.

The floor outside Room 1 was paved with backed bricks (Pl. 16a). The brick pavement often associate with a courtyard-like space. The size of the bricks measured $49\sim 50 \times 49\sim 50 \times 5.5\sim 6$ cm. The features of these bricks are resemble to those of Level 9b in Trenches I, II and III. It is apparent that the brick pavement extended to an area between the western wall of Room 1 and edge of the cliff.

In addition, two inscribed baked bricks were found on the floor level of the brick pavement outside the west wall of Room 1 (Fig. 7, Pl. 17). The inscriptions mentioned that the palace of *Etel-pî-Adad*, king of *Tabetu* in the middle of 12th century BC [Maul 2005: 49, 50]. These inscribed backed bricks may have corresponded with the courtyard or been embedded inside the west wall of Room 1. This may be additional evidence that Room 1 and the courtyard were part of the palace (or public) complex.

We assume that the structures uncovered in Level 3 of Trench 5 are part of the Middle Assyrian palace at Tell Taban.

3. Concluding remarks

The 2005 season at Tell Taban was a very short field season. However, it was the most fruitful season to date, due to the discovery of the cache of Middle Assyrian clay tablets and revealing part of the palace structure (see above). The inscribed baked-bricks found in Level 3 of Trench 5 suggest a possibility that the palace complex may belong to the reign of King *Etel-pî-Adad*. The clay tablets most certainly include historically important political correspondences that throw light on the “Dark Age” of the second millennium BCE in the Syrian Jazirah and North Mesopotamia.

Since the floor level of Room 1 is not reached, the overall picture of the archive is not certain. We are planning to continue our excavations in Trench 5 in the next field season, expecting to find

a large number of clay tablets as well as mural paintings.

Acknowledgements

The 2005 season at Tell Taban was possible by the generous support and encouragement from the DGAM, Damascus. I would like to thank especially Dr. Bassam Jammous, Director General, DGAM and Dr. Michel al-Maqdisi, Director of Excavation, DGAM for their unfailing support. I would also like to thank Mr. Abdul Masih Bagdoo, Director of the Department of Antiquities and Museums in Hassake, who provide us with necessary needs to our excavations.

Shin Nishiyama (National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo) helped in proofreading the draft of this report. I thank them both for their cooperation.

Addendum

The two clusters of clay tablets were transported to the Conservation Lab of the Damascus National Museum where the conservation treatment of tablets is now underway. It was revealed that the two clusters contained approximately 150 clay tablets. At the moment, around 70 pieces are already cleaned and conserved. In the summer season of 2005, our epigraphic team carried out the decipherment of the clay tablets. The result will be published in the forthcoming volume of *Al-Rāfidān*.

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Catalogue of Pottery Specimens (Figs.9 and 10)

(in Fig.9)

1. Rim to body of beaker(from Level 1 in Trench 5): creamy(2.5YR9/3) outer and inner surfaces and pinkish buff(2.5YR6/6) core; sparse chalky particles inclusions; very fine fabric; fine grooves on the shoulder; supposed rim diam. 10.8cm; 1/3 of the rim and 1/10 of the body extant.
2. Nipple base sherd(from Level 2 in Trench 4): creamy(slip)(2.5YR9/2) outer and inner surfaces; pinkish buff(2.5YR7/6) core; very fine sand inclusions; fine fabric; wet-smoothed on the outer surface after scraping; nipple part made by scraping; extant height 2.3cm; bottom complete.
3. Rim to body of bowl(from Level 2 in Trench 5): greenish white(7.5Y8/2) outer and inner surfaces and core; sparse very fine sand and a little vegetable(1-5mm long) inclusions; fine fabric; wet-smoothed on the lower part of body of the outer surface after scraping; supposed rim diam. 16cm; 1/6 extant.
4. Rim to body of bowl(from Level 2 in Trench 4): creamy(slip)(2.5Y8/2) outer and inner surfaces; pinkish buff(2.5YR7/4) core; sparse very fine sand and a little vegetable(1-3mm long) inclusions; fine fabric; wet-smoothed on the lower part of body of the outer surface after scraping; supposed rim diam. 16cm; 1/5 extant.
5. Rim to body of tripod bowl(from Level 2 in Trench 4): creamy(slip)(2.5Y9/2) outer and inner surfaces; pinkish buff(2.5YR6/6) core; sparse very fine sand and vegetable(1-2mm long) inclusions; fine fabric; trace of burnishing remained on the outer and inner surfaces; supposed rim diam. 16cm; one foot remained; 1/4 extant.
6. Rim to base of ring-base bowl(from Level 2 in Trench 5): creamy(slip)(2.5Y9/2) outer and inner surfaces; pinkish or reddish buff(2.5YR6/6) core; sparse very fine sand and a little vegetable(1-3mm long) inclusions; fine fabric; wet-smoothed on the lower part of body of the outer surface after scraping; lack of the ring-base; supposed rim diam. 26cm; 1/4 extant.
7. Rim to base of bowl(from Level 2 in Trench 5): greenish white(5Y9/2) outer and inner surfaces and core; sparse chalky particles, coarse sand and a medium amount of vegetable(1-5mm long) inclusions; pallet-cut on the bottom; supposed rim diam.10cm; 1/8 of the rim and 1/4 of the body and 1/6 of the base extant.
8. Rim to base of bowl(from deposit of pit of Grave 5 in Trench 4): greenish creamy white(5Y9/2) outer and inner surfaces; reddish buff(5YR7/4) core; sparse fine sand and a medium amount of vegetable(1-3mm long) inclusions; pallet-cut on the bottom; supposed rim diam. 9.5cm; 1/3 of the rim and 1/2 of the body to base extant.
9. Rim to body of bowl(from deposit of pit of Grave 5 in Trench 4): greenish white(5Y9/2) outer and inner surfaces and core; sparse vegetable(1-3mm long) inclusions; supposed rim diam. 14cm; 1/5 extant.
10. Rim to base of bowl(from deposit of pit of Grave 5 in Trench 4): creamy white(slip)(5Y9/2) outer and inner surfaces; light pinkish buff(2.5YR6/6) core; medium amount of vegetable(1-3mm long) inclusions; pallet-cut on the bottom; rim diam. 16cm; 1/2 of rim to base extant.
11. Rim to body of bowl(from Level 5 in Trench 4): creamy white(2.5Y8/3) outer and inner surfaces; greenish(10Y8/2) core; sparse vegetable(1-3mm long) inclusions; supposed rim diam. 20cm; 1/5 extant.
12. Rim to body of bowl(from Level 3 in Trench 4): creamy white(10Y9/2) outer and inner surfaces; buff(5YR7/6) core; sparse fine sand and a medium amount of vegetable(1-5mm long) inclusions; scraped on the lower part of body of the outer surface; supposed rim diam. 20cm; 1/6 extant.
13. Rim to body of bowl(from Level 3 in Trench 4): creamy buff(7.5YR8/4) outer and inner surfaces and core; sparse fine sand and a medium amount of vegetable(1-3mm long) inclusions; wet-smoothed on the lower part of body of the outer surface after scraping; supposed rim diam. 30cm; 1/6 extant.

(in Fig.10)

14. Rim of beaker(from Level 2 in Trench 5): greenish white(5Y9/2) outer and inner surfaces and core; sparse very fine sand and vegetable(1-2mm long) inclusions; supposed rim diam. 6.3cm; 1/4 extant.
15. Nipple base sherd(from Level 2 in Trench 5): pinkish cream(5YR7/4) outer and inner surfaces; pinkish buff(2.5YR7/4) core; no visible inclusions; fine fabric; nipple part made by scraping; extant height 2.6cm; bottom complete.
16. Nipple base sherd(from Level 2 in Trench 5): creamy(slip)(2.5Y9/2) outer surface; reddish buff(7.5YR7/6) inner surface and core; sparse very fine sand inclusions; fine fabric; nipple part made by scraping; extant height 2.5cm; bottom complete.
17. Nipple base sherd(from Level 2 in Trench 5): creamy(slip)(2.5Y9/2) outer and inner surface; pinkish buff(5YR7/6) core; sparse fine sand inclusions; fine fabric; nipple part made by scraping; extant height 5cm; 1/3 of the base extant; bottom complete.
18. Nipple base sherd(from Level 3 in Trench 4): creamy(slip)(5Y9/2) outer and inner surface; reddish buff(7.5YR7/6)

- core; sparse fine sand and vegetable(1-3mm long) inclusions; nipple part made by scraping; extant height 2.5cm; 1/3 of the base and 1/2 of the bottom extant.
19. Nipple base sherd(from Level 2 in Trench 5): creamy(2.5Y9/2) outer surface; pinkish cream(7.5YR8/4) inner surface; pinkish buff(5YR8/2) core; sparse fine sand, coarse chalky particles and a medium amount of vegetable(1-5mm long) inclusions; scraped on the outer surface; nipple part made by scraping; extant height 2.5cm; 2/3 of the base and nipple part extant; bottom complete.
 20. Rim of beaker(from Level 4 in Trench 4): greenish cream(10Y9/2) outer and inner surfaces and core; sparse fine sand and vegetable(1-2mm long) inclusions; supposed rim diam. 7.5cm; 1/5 extant.
 21. Body to base of beaker(from Level 5 in Trench 4): greenish white(7.5Y8/2) outer and inner surfaces and core; sparse very fine sand inclusions; lack of the nipple base; extant height 7.8cm; 1/2 of the body extant; bottom complete.
 22. Nipple base sherd(from Level 5 in Trench 4): creamy(5Y9/2) outer and inner surfaces; pinkish buff(5YR7/4) core; sparse very fine sand and chalky particles inclusions; nipple part made by sticking; extant height 4.5cm; 2/3 of the body extant; bottom complete.
 23. Nipple base sherd(from Level 2 in Trench 5): creamy white(10Y9/2) outer surface; buff(2.5Y8/4) inner surface; pinkish buff(7.5YR7/6) core; sparse very fine sand, chalky particles and vegetable(1mm long) inclusions; wet-smoothed on outer surface after scraping; nipple part made by sticking; extant height 4.5cm; 2/3 of the body extant; bottom complete.
 24. Footed base sherd of goblet(from Level 5 in Trench 4): dark cream(2.5Y8/2) outer and inner surfaces; pinkish buff(2.5YR7/4) core; large amount of very fine sand and chalky particles inclusions; foot made by sticking; extant height 3.2cm; bottom complete.
 25. Footed base sherd of goblet(from Level 3 in Trench 4): creamy(10Y9/2) outer and inner surfaces; buff(7.5YR7/4) core; sparse very fine sand and chalky particles inclusions; foot made by sticking; extant height 3.2cm; 1/2 of the body and 3/4 of the foot extant; bottom complete.
 26. Footed base sherd of goblet(from Level 5 in Trench 4): reddish buff(2.5YR7/4) outer and inner surfaces; pinkish buff(2.5YR7/4) core; large amount of very fine sand and chalky particles inclusions; extant height 4cm; bottom complete.
 27. Footed base sherd of goblet(from Level 3 in Trench 5): greenish white(7.5Y8/2) outer and inner surfaces; dark pinkish buff(2.5YR7/4) core; large amount of very fine sand and sparse vegetable(1-2mm long) inclusions; foot made by sticking; extant height 3.9cm; bottom complete.
 28. Button base sherd(from Level 4 in Trench 4): dark buff(7.5YR7/4) outer and inner surfaces and core; sparse fine sand, chalky particles and a medium amount of vegetable(1-3mm long) inclusions; wet-smoothed on the outer surface of body after scraping; button part made by scraping; extant height 6.5cm; 2/3 of the body extant; bottom complete.
 29. Button base sherd(from deposit of the pit of Grave 5 in Trench 4): reddish buff(2.5YR5/7) outer and inner surfaces; blackish grey(N3) core; sparse fine sand and a medium amount of vegetable(1-3mm long) inclusions; wet-smoothed on the outer surface of body after scraping; button part made by scraping; extant height 5.7cm; bottom complete.
 30. Rim to shoulder of jar(from Level 2 in Trench 5): greenish cream(5Y9/2) outer and inner surfaces; pinkish buff(2.5YR7/4) core; medium amount of fine sand and a large amount of vegetable(1-5mm long) inclusions; defaced outer surface; supposed rim diam. 14cm; 1/5 extant.
 31. Rim to shoulder of jar(from Level 3 in Trench 5): reddish buff(2.5YR4/8) outer and inner surfaces; dark reddish buff(2.5YR5/4) core; sparse fine sand and a large amount of vegetable(1-5mm long) inclusions; carbide sticking on the outer and inner surfaces; supposed rim diam. 14.6cm; 1/5 of the rim and 1/4 of the shoulder extant.
 32. Rim to shoulder of jar(from deposit of the pit of Grave 5 in Trench 4): creamy(2.5Y8/3) outer surface; light buff(7.5YR7/6) inner surface; reddish buff(2.5YR6/6) core; large amount of fine sand and vegetable(1-5mm long) inclusions; supposed rim diam. 14cm; 2/3 extant.

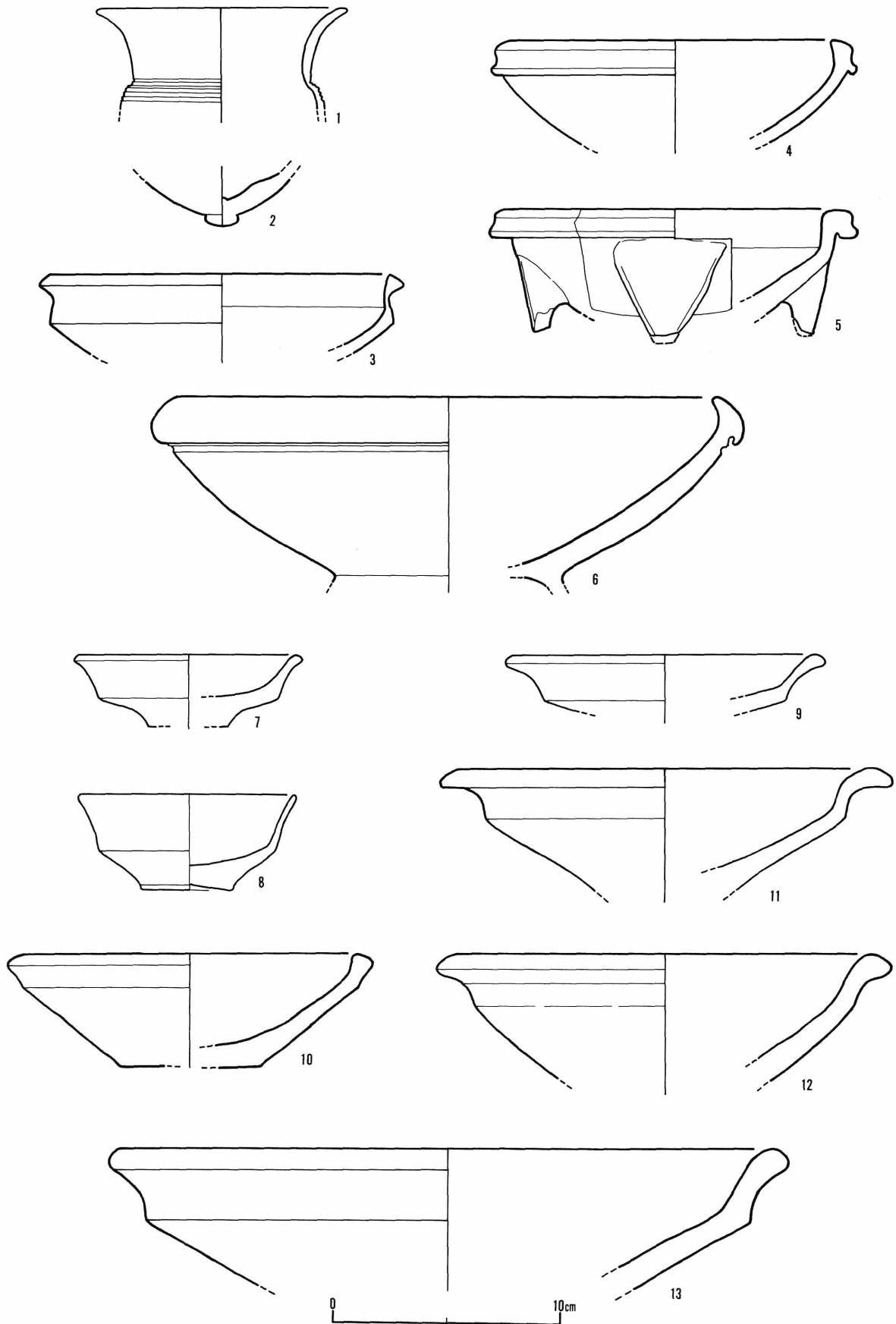


Fig. 9 Neo Assyrian pottery (nos. 1-6) and Middle Assyrian Pottery (Nos. 7-13) from Trenches 4 and 5

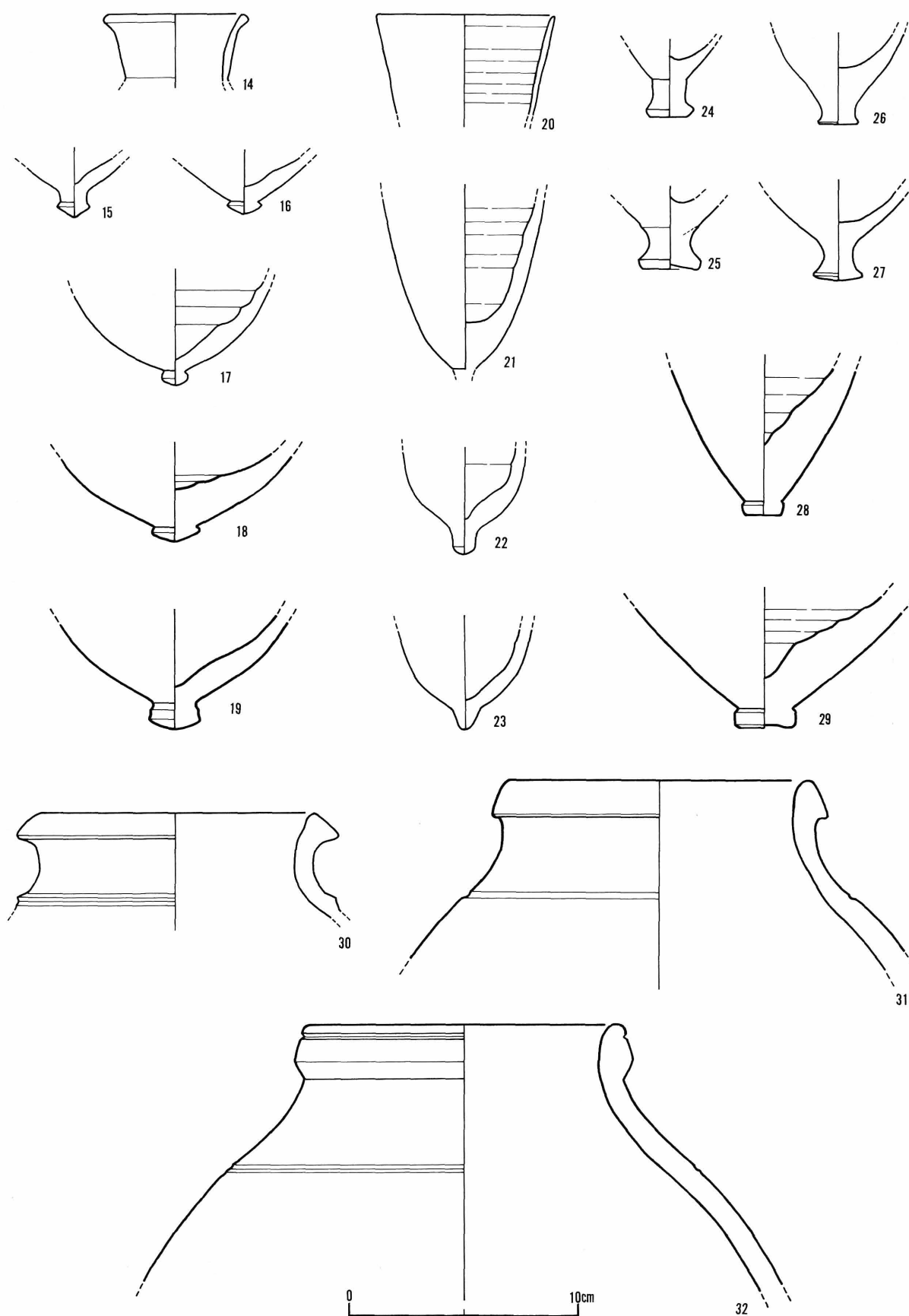


Fig. 10 Middle Assyrian Pottery from Trenches 4 and 5

Pl. 1



a. Tell Taban seen from the west, after the 2005 Feb. excavation



b. Tell Taban seen from the east, after the 2005 Feb. excavation



a. Trenches 4 and 5, after excavation, from west



b. Huge high wall in Trench 4



a. Cluster of clay tablets (No.1) from Room 1 in Trench 5



b. Cluster of clay tablets (No.2) from Room 1 in Trench 5



a. Wall face of the Level 3 (north-south section) in Trench 5



b. Closer view of red paint on the wall face of the Level 3 in Trench 5

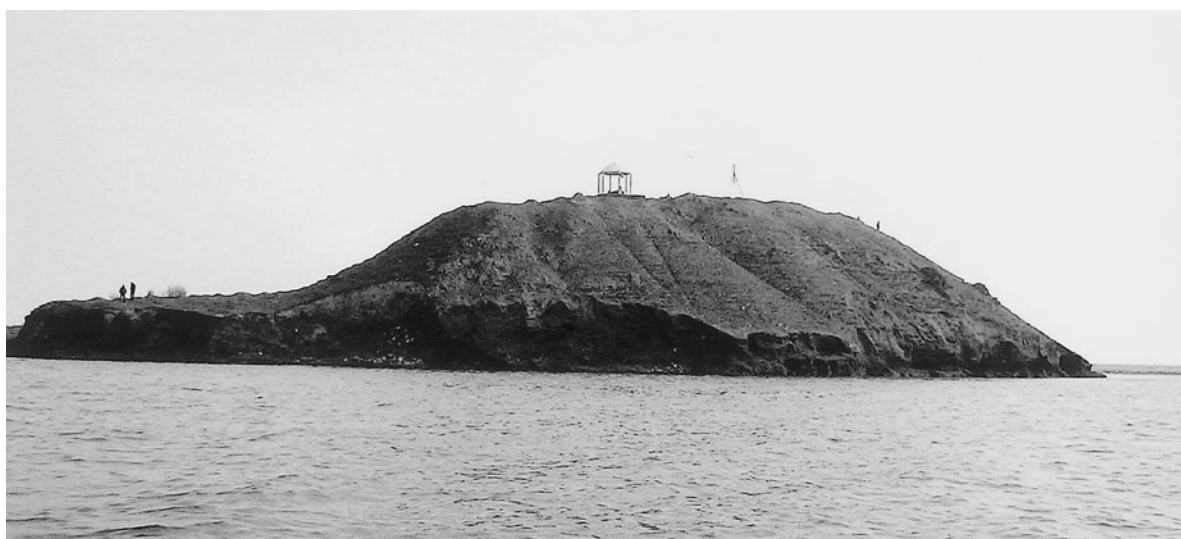
Pl. 5



a. Tell Taban seen from the north, before the 2005 excavation



b. Tell Taban seen from the south, before the 2005 excavation



c. Tell Taban seen from the west, before the 2005 excavation



a. Trench 4 before excavation, huge wall and Grave 5 exposed



b. Trench 4 before excavation, and exposed huge wall



a. Huge wall before excavation



b. Grave 5 before excavation



a. Mud-brick walls of Levels 3 and 4 in Trench 4, from the south



b. Trench 4 after excavation, from the east



a. Huge wall in Trench 4 after excavation, from the west



b. Huge wall in Trench 4 after excavation, from the south



a. Huge wall in Trench 4 after excavation, from the north



b. Huge wall in Trench 4 after excavation, from the east



a. Grave 5 in Trench 4 before excavation



b. Grave 5 in Trench 4 after excavation



a. Wall face of the west wall in Grave 5



b. Wall face of the north wall in Grave 5



a. Entrance-like structure of Level 2 in Trench 5, from the east



b. Entrance-like structure of Level 2 in Trench 5, from the north



a. Entrance-like structure of Level 2 in Trench 5, from the west



b. Entrance-like structure of Level 2 in Trench 5, from the west



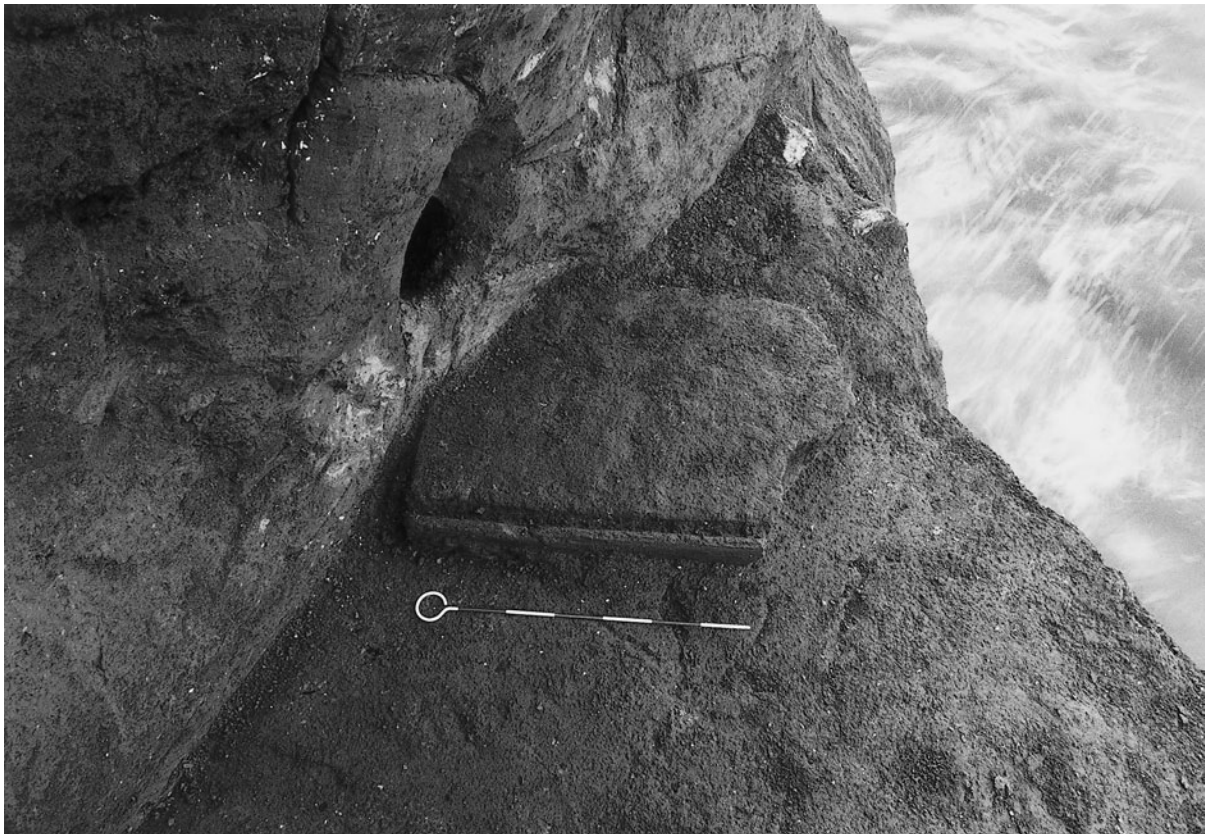
a. Entrance-like structure of Level 2 and wall of Level 3 in Trench 5, from the west



b. Wall of Room 1 of Level 3 in Trench 5



a. Backed brick pavement of Level 3 in Trench 5



b. Backed Tile from Level 3 in Trench 5



a. Inscribed brick from Level 3 in Trench 5



b. Inscribed brick from Level 3 in Trench 5



a. Wall face of entrance-like structure of Level 2 and wall of Level 3 in Trench 5



b. Cluster of clay tablets (lower level (No.1)) from Room 1 of Level 3 in Trench 5



a. Cluster of clay tablets (lower level (No.1)) from Room 1 of Level 3 in Trench 5



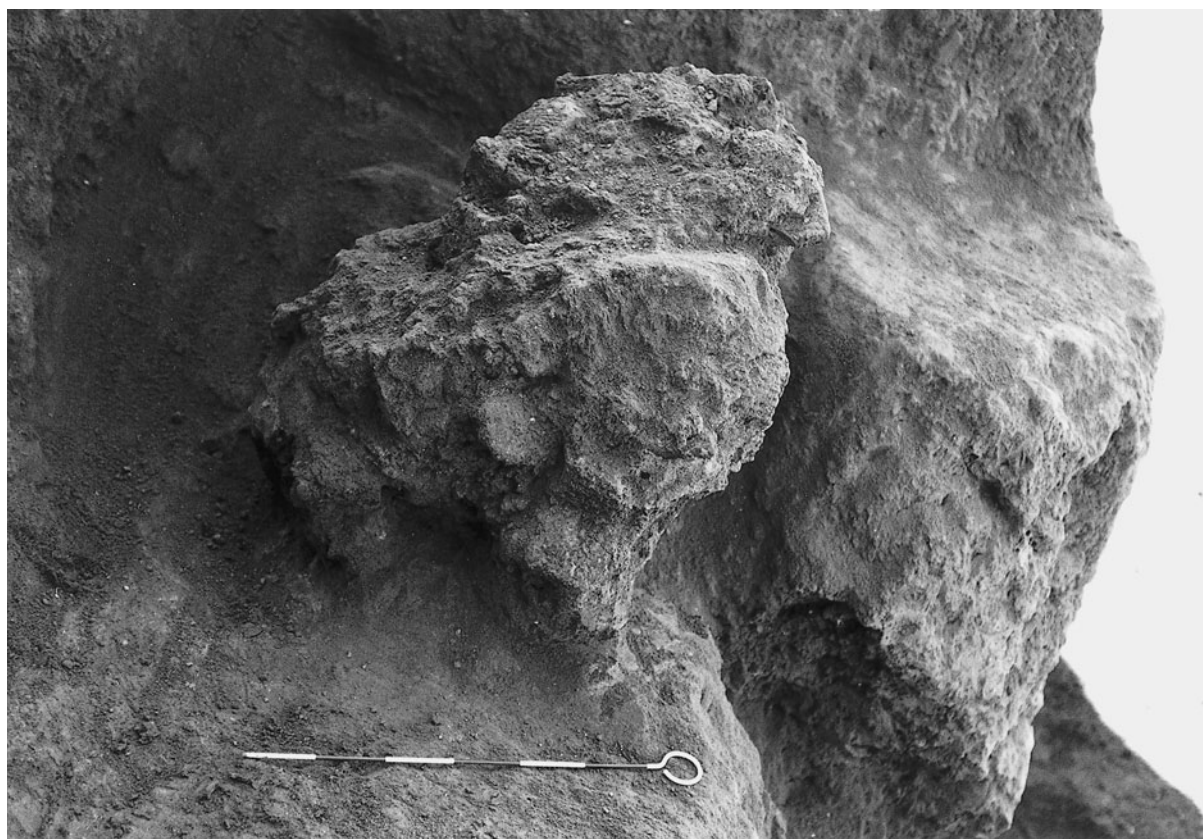
b. Closer view of clay tablet



a. Tablet and remains of carbonized reed, cluster of clay tablets (lower level (No.1))



b. Cluster of clay tablets (lower level (No.1)) from Room 1 of Level 3 in Trench 5, from the north



a. Cluster of clay tablets (lower level (No.1)) from Room 1 of Level 3



b. Cluster of clay tablets (lower level (No.1)) from Room 1 of Level 3



a. Closer view of cluster of clay tablets (lower level (No.1)) from Room 1 of Level 3



b. Closer view of cluster of clay tablets (lower level (No.1)) from Room 1 of Level 3



a. Cluster of clay tablets (upper level (No.2)) from Room 1 of Level 3 in Trench 5, from the east



b. Cluster of clay tablets (upper level (No.2)) from Room 1 of Level 3 in Trench 5, from the north



a. Closer view of cluster of clay tablets (upper level (No.2)) from Room 1 of Level 3



b. Cluster of clay tablets (upper level (No.2)) from Room 1 of Level 3 in Trench 5, from the west



a. Trench 5 after excavation (after took up clusters of clay tablets)



b. Trench 5 after excavation, from the east



a. Trench 5 after excavation, from the west



b. Entrance of the Room 1 in Trench 5, from the south



a. Grave 1 in Trench 4 (Neo Assyrian)



b. Infant burial in Grave 1



a. Grave 4 in Trench 5 (Neo Assyrian)



b. Infant burial in Grave 4



a. Grave 3 in Trench 5 (Neo Assyrian)



b. Grave 3 in Trench 5



a. Cylinder seal from Grave 3



b. Beads from Grave 3